

# Death of Alvarado Hunter—Sketch of his Life.

Lieut. Charles G. Hunter, better known as "Alvarado Hunter," is no more! He was admitted to the New York Hospital on Friday last, suffering from a disease contracted in Mexico, during the war, and died there on Tuesday last.

The life of Lieut. Hunter has been most erratic and curious. He was born in Trenton, New Jersey, in 1812. His father was an eminent lawyer of that place, and there the subject of this sketch resided until sent to West Point, where he was educated, and from which he graduated with high honors. After leaving West Point he entered the naval service as a midshipman. Having passed through the necessary examination, he was soon afterwards promoted to the rank of Passed Midshipman. Not long after this promotion, and while sojourning in Philadelphia, the young gentleman first gained public attention by fighting a duel with a well-known renegade, named Miller, a resident of Philadelphia. The encounter originated from an insult alleged to have been given by Hunter to a young lady—a sister-in-law of Miller's. Hunter, it appears, while looking from the window of his hotel, espied the face of a lovely young woman at a window of a house opposite. Fascinated by her appearance, he attempted, too persistently, to attract her attention. For this "imprudence," he was called to account by Miller, and, refusing to make a satisfactory apology, was challenged to mortal combat. The challenge was accepted, and the place and time designated. Miller was a famous shot. He was so skilled in the duello as to be able, so 'tis said, to split a card, or snuff a candle, at the distance of ten paces. When the Griffiths, as particular as so well known, that his friends did not doubt that he would kill his antagonist on the first fire. So confident were they of this, that they had prepared a bounteous repast to celebrate the event. The meeting took place at Red Bank, a few miles from Philadelphia. Miller was killed on the first fire. Hunter escaped without a scratch. His prowess in the duel became public, Hunter was dismissed from the service (in 1830) by General Jackson then President. Rewards were issued for his arrest, and he was forced to flee, to avoid apprehension. He first went to Boston, and from thence to Montreal. He soon after returned in disguise to New Jersey, and remained for some time secreted in the house of a Mrs. Griffith, in the town of New Brunswick. While absconded, he became enamored of his protector's daughter, and was subsequently married to her. When the commotion caused by the duel, had in some measure subsided, he went to Washington, obtained an interview with Gen. Jackson, explained all the facts connected with the duel, and, as a result, received his former position. The President listened silently to the young man's appeal, and answered it by saying, "I will think of the matter." The next day young Hunter received notice through the parity of the President, he was restored to his former post, and entitled to all the arrears in his pay from the time of his dismissal.

We next hear of him in the year 1842, as First Lieutenant of the *Essex*, at the command of the Mediterranean Squadron, under command of Commodore Ridgely. He discharged the duties of this position faithfully, and after the lapse of three years, returned to the States. When the Mexican war broke out, he was earnestly solicited to be appointed to a command in the fleet which was fitting out to bombard the city of Vera Cruz. An old hulk, the *Sergeant*, was fitted out and placed in his command, with instructions to join the rest of the squadron. During the voyage to the Gulf, he was compelled to put into Havana for repairs. Finally, he reached his destination, and reported to Commodore Perry, by whom he was ordered to go to Alvarado and watch the proceedings there. Alvarado contained at that time ten thousand inhabitants, and its strong defenses were guarded by 3,000 regular troops, with 60 guns. Several partial attempts had already been made by the American squadron to take possession of that stronghold, but they all failed. Lieutenant Hunter arrived off the city in the night-time. He had with him but 50 men, all told, and one gun, a 22-pounder. Notwithstanding this disparity of strength he at once resolved, with that reckless daring for which he was famous, to attempt the capture of the city. He sent a boat on shore, with a message to the General of the forces, commanding him to surrender the forts and city within thirty minutes. "If not," he would destroy the city by a powerful fleet which he had moored outside to attack the forts, and 10,000 men, who were awaiting orders from the beach, would march on and destroy the city. The particulars of this affair have been so often told, that it is now only necessary to say that the *ruse* had the effect intended. The forts and city capitulated, and in the morning the American flag waved triumphantly above them. Not satisfied with this exploit, the gallant lieutenant hastened on next morning, and, with a small force, succeeded in fighting in a most brilliant manner his defenders to surrender. When Commodore Perry arrived in front of Alvarado the next morning, he was astonished to see the American flag waving from the forts and city, which he expected to meet with such difficulty in capturing. This famous exploit, however, romantic and daring, was for such disobedience its hero was court-martialed and dismissed from the squadron. He returned home, and on his arrival at New York was honored with a public ovation. He was met at the battery by a large concourse of citizens who escorted him to the City Hall, where, in the Governor's Room he was presented with a costly sword.

Soon afterwards, Judge Mason then Secretary of the Navy, gave him command of the *Taney*, in the Mediterranean. While holding this command, he was also acting Purser of the vessel; and upon settling his accounts, was returned as a defaulter to the extent of eight thousand dollars, and was dismissed from the service in consequence. By the influence of Com. Stockton, his uncle, and of Gen. Cass, an ardent supporter of the Congress, wiping out the amount of defalcation, by crediting him therewith. Personal influence induced President Fillmore to again reinstate him, and he was put in command of the *Brig Bridgeton*, with which vessel he returned from the Brazilian Station in the early part of January, 1855, because Com. Salter refused to send him to Pangany, where a difficulty between the authorities of that place and an American Consul.

This singular action on the part of Lieut. Hunter was severely commented on by the public press. When he started for home with the vessel under his command, he was under positive orders to make a cruise. The Regulations affix the penalty of death to the crime of leaving a port without orders or being relieved without orders. The Government was not disposed to visit him with the full penalty, but he was temporarily dismissed from the service by the Secretary of the Navy, notwithstanding influential friends pressed earnestly for his trial by Court Martial.

Previous to his dismissal, Lieut. Hunter felt called upon to make a public defence of his conduct. The defence was characteristic of the man. "Vessels of war," he said, "are sent abroad for the purpose of protecting our lives, property and rights of our citizens; and any man who would consent to remain in command of a vessel of war where her use was perverted, i. e., sent where she was not needed, would be acting unworthily of his position. After his dismissal he took up his abode in this City, and has continued to dwell here. The failure of his hopes, and his great misfortune weighed heavily on his mind. His hair became

rapidly gray with grief, and all his acts betrayed him to be a broken-hearted man.

No one who knew him, had any but feelings of respect for him. His faults, if they were faults, were errors attributable to an impulsive disposition, and were far outweighed by his many and solid virtues. He was as generous as brave, and impetuous. His melancholy demise will be regretted by all who knew him, as well as by those acquainted with his singular and romantic career.

He leaves behind a wife and daughter. Both are now in Spain.

The funeral will take place to-morrow from Trinity Church.

## Dismissal of an Assistant Surgeon from the Army.

The finding of the court martial which met at Fort Riley, in Kansas, some time since, for the trial of James Simons, an Assistant Surgeon in the United States army, charged with neglect of duty in August last, while the cholera prevailed at that post, has been published. There were two charges: 1st, "Neglect of duty to the prejudice of good order and military discipline;" and 2d, "Conduct becoming an officer and gentleman." Various specifications follow the charges, wherein it is alleged that Dr. S. absented himself from his post for ten days while the epidemic raged; that he failed to attend Major Ogden during the last 22 hours of his life, and that he neglected to give attention to the case of Mrs. Major Woods, who died of cholera, he leaving his post previous to her death.

The court declared Dr. Simons guilty on both charges, and sentenced him, "to be dismissed from the service of the United States," which sentence has been approved by President Pierce, who in his decision, however, says: "There is no denial of the main fact that Dr. Simons was absent from his post during the pestilence. He alleged in his defence that he was sick and was exhausted as no longer to be capable of attending to the sick at the post. But he did not establish this before the court, but when the Judge Advocate offered to rebut and disprove it, he objected to the investigation, and the court refused to make it. Still not being fully satisfied that the act of Dr. Simons was due to the circumstances of the immoral and dishonorable or disreputable character necessary to sustain the charge under the 83d article of war, the finding on the second charge and specification is not confirmed. I cannot, however, doubt that the facts proved sustain the first charge, and not only justify the sentence of the court, but require that it shall be executed. Assistant Surgeon James Simons, therefore, ceases to be an officer of the army."

## A Faithful Negro.

The *Alta California*, of the 5th ult., says: "Among the departures by the steamer Golden Age to-day, is an old negro, named Daniel, who has been pretty well known in this city, and whose history in California is an exemplification of the faithfulness of the negro character. Daniel was born in 1800, in the town of his master, Colonel Montague, of Alabama, and Richard F. Nutt, esq. Colonel Montague only remained here a month or two, and then returned home, leaving Daniel with a relative here. In the month of June, 1850, Daniel went to the Mariposa mines, and one morning in January, 1852, he picked up a lump of gold weighing 150 lbs., which he sent home to his mistress as a present. In September, 1853, he was sent home to his master, and returned again in 1854, with Col. M.'s son, Daniel, during the past year, has lived as a servant with Major Cross, and has accumulated about \$300. On Saturday, his master purchased on his act fifty-four dollar worth of gold specimens, intended as presents—one for each of the white members of his master's family. Daniel will leave for New Orleans to-day, with Thomas P. Johnson, esq."

## Fashionable Lace Vells.

The Empress of France, herself a splendid woman, sets the ladies of fashion all in a fever when she appears with any new article of dress or ornament. The correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce* gives the following as a specimen: "The Empress' four-piece of lace has lately manufactured, expressly for her, a small black and white lace veil, which consequently has become all the vogue. The veil is very small, and with rounded corners; the centre is covered with small dots or sprigs; the border is a wreath, or a Vandyke pattern, two or three inches deep; these veils are prettier and more becoming than the heavily worked chantilly falls, which overload the bonnets when raised, and quite conceal the face when dropped. Necklaces are again worn, and are endless in variety and beauty. Strands of diamonds and pearls, or fine gold chains forming festoons by clasps of precious stones."

## Washington City in 1801.

One can scarcely credit the description of Washington City, as Mrs. Adams found it in 1801: "Here and there (she writes) is a small cottage without a glass window, interspersed among the forests, through which you travel for miles without seeing a human being. The house is upon a grand and superb scale—requiring about thirty servants to attend and keep the apartments in order. I could not find myself anywhere for three months, but though surrounded by forests, can you believe that wood could not be had, because people cannot be found to cut and cart it? The house is made habitable, but there is not a single apartment finished. We have not the least fence, yard, or other convenience without, and the great un-finished room I make a drying room. I have hung up clothes. It is a beautiful scene, capable of every improvement, and the more I view it the more I am delighted with it."

## Mammot Task in Mexico.

The *San Antonio Zeitung*, of the 9th ult., contains a communication from Mr. Weidner to the Governor of the Mexican State of Nuevo Leon, and Gen. Taylor, in which he alludes to the discovery by him, on the 15th of December, at the Rio Durango, not far from the city of Parras, of an extraordinary fossil task. It is eighteen feet long and three feet in circumference at the root. The ivory is much weathered; only the mineral portions remain. The exterior of the tooth is clear yellow, while the interior is white. The formation in which this task, together with molat teeth and other bones of various animals, was found, is cretaceous, and consists of deposits of sand, breccia, fresh water molluscs, iron ore, peat and petrified wood in alternate layers, and scattered about very promiscuously. At the foot of the mountain is an ancient beach, indicating that the valley was a lake, and that the enormous animal which swallowed the task browsed in its shallows on the vast cryptogam which formed the peat beds. Mr. Weidner supposes the animal to whom this task belonged to have been something like an elephant, and estimates that he must have been 120 feet long—larger than any fossil animal heretofore known. He proposes the name of *Duraznotherium-hobditiense*.

## Death of a Millionaire.

A gentleman once said he should like to see a boat full of ladies drift on the ocean, to see what course they would steer; a lady in the room replied; "that's easy—they would steer to the Isle of Man, to be sure!"

## Death of a Millionaire.

The death of a millionaire, announced in the *New York papers*, has had a great effect on the dry goods business for 45 years, and is said to have left an estate of over a million of dollars.

## Translated from the Courrier des Etats Unis.

### Death Warrant of Christ.

Chance has just put into our hands the most imposing and interesting judicial document to all Christians; that is the identical death-warrant of our Lord Jesus Christ. We transcribe the document as it has been handed to us: *Sentence rendered by Pontius Pilate, acting Governor of Lower Galilee, stating that Jesus of Nazareth, shall suffer death on the cross.*

"In the year seventeen of the empire Tiberius Cesar, and the 25th day of March, in the town of the holy Jerusalem, Anna and Caiaphas being priests sacrificers of the people of God, Pontius Pilate, Governor of Lower Galilee, sitting on the presidential chair of the Praetory, condemn Jesus of Nazareth to die on the cross between two thieves—the great and notorious evidence of the people saying:

1. Jesus is a seducer.  
2. He is a heretic.  
3. He is an enemy of the law.  
4. He calls himself falsely the Son of God.  
5. He calls himself falsely the King of Israel.  
6. He entered into the temple, followed by a multitude bearing palm branches in their hands.  
7. He refused to be flogged.  
8. He refused to be crowned with thorns.  
9. He refused to be crucified.  
10. He refused to be buried in a tomb.  
11. He refused to be buried in a tomb.  
12. He refused to be buried in a tomb.

Order the first centurion, Quillus Cornelius, to lead him to the place of execution. Forbid to any person whatsoever, either poor or rich, to oppose the death of Jesus. The witnesses who signed the condemnation of Jesus are, viz: 1. Daniel Robani, a Pharisee; 2. Joannas Horobable; 3. Raphael Robani; 4. Capet, a citizen. Jesus shall go out of the city of Jerusalem by the gate of Stryennus.

The above sentence is engraved on a copper plate of the size of a small tablet. It is similar plate is sent to each tribe. It was found in an antique vase of white marble, while excavating in the ancient city of Aquila, in the kingdom of Naples, in the year 1820, and was discovered by the Commissioners of Arts attached to the French armies. At the expedition of Naples, it was found enclosed in a box of ebony, for the sacristy of the Church of the Virgin in the city of Caserta.

The French translation was made by the members of the Commission of Arts. The original is in the Hebrew language. The Charters requested earnestly that the plate should not be taken away from them. The request was granted as a reward for the sacrifice they had made for the army. M. Denon, one of the savans, caused a plate to be made of the same model, on which he had engraved the above sentence. At the sale of his collection of antiquities, &c., it was bought by Lord Howard for 2,890 francs.

## A Marriage in Paris.

The Paris correspondent of the *New York Times* writes:

Mr. Howard, First Secretary of the British Legation in Paris, is about to be married to the English beauty, Miss Smead. Mr. Howard's first wife was the celebrated Baltimore beauty, Miss McTavish, so well known in the gay world of Paris a few years ago. It was this Mrs. Howard, of Baltimore, who was so frequently confounded with the Mrs. Howard who lived many years with the present Emperor of France. The name of Howard is a name of a distinguished family of that name in England, and is a man of some talent.

## AN IMPATIENT WIDOW.

A few days ago (says an English paper), the Marquis Towish breathed his last, in his 70th year, at his villa, near Genoa. He had resided many years in strict seclusion. Fifty years ago he died to the altar Sarah, the daughter of Mr. W. Dunn Gardner. The union was not blessed by offspring, and the Marquis was mortified to see the title descend to a junior branch of the family. Cohabitation differences arose, which led to the separation of the married pair; and as they had no children, he had resided many years in strict seclusion. Fifty years ago he died to the altar Sarah, the daughter of Mr. W. Dunn Gardner. The union was not blessed by offspring, and the Marquis was mortified to see the title descend to a junior branch of the family. Cohabitation differences arose, which led to the separation of the married pair; and as they had no children, he had resided many years in strict seclusion. Fifty years ago he died to the altar Sarah, the daughter of Mr. W. Dunn Gardner. 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